

June 19, 2007

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031

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"First and foremost I want to thank my leadership - Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Whip Clyburn, Chairman Frank, and others - for meeting with Governor Blanco and myself today to discuss Louisiana's recovery. Every step of the way, they have been fighting for the people of the Gulf Coast and I appreciate their commitment. In just six short months, they have passed a flurry of legislation to help us rebuild, including a waiver of the 10% match that was strangling our recovery and \$6.4 billion in additional funding for levee building, direct relief for fishermen, assistance for schools to rebuild and hire and retain more teachers, and other important needs. Their quick action and continuous support is greatly appreciated by all of us involved in rebuilding our communities along the Gulf Coast.

"I also want to thank Governor Blanco and members of the LRA for coming to Washington on such short notice to brief the leadership. They did an excellent job making Louisiana's case and explaining our needs to the members of Congress. Their tireless commitment to Louisiana's recovery was evident in the meeting today, and I thank them for their dedication."

"Today we made a major step forward in finding a solution to the Road Home shortfall. Governor Blanco, members of the House leadership and I met for over an hour this afternoon, discussing at length what our needs are for the Road Home and how Congress can help meet them. Given the Democratic leadership's strong track record with Katrina and Rita recovery, I am confident they will stand up for us once again and work with Louisiana to make the Road Home solvent. We all share the same goal: making sure every Louisianian who wants to, is able to return home and rebuild."

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